

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 13–42 and 44 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 13, 28 and 44 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

§102 Rejection of Claims 13–15, 18–26, 28–30, 33–41 and 44

In Section 2 of the Office Action, claims 13–15, 18–26, 28–30, 33–41 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft® Windows, copyright 1998, Screenshot 1 (hereinafter referred to as “Windows Screenshots”).

In the Specification, it was disclosed that “a network, such as a home network, comprises several devices.” *Specification, page 2, line 7.* (emphasis added) Figure 6 exemplifies a network configuration wherein a home network representing a typical structure of a home is constituted of a plurality of devices arranged in sub-networks. *See Specification, page 2, lines 26–28.* (emphasis added) Examples of sub-networks include a “Home Floor 1,” “Home Floor 2,” and “Network ‘Car’.” *See Figure 6.* Sub-networks composing home networks comprise various electronic devices such as an Audio/Video Hard Disc (AVHD) 102, a TV 103, a Camcorder 104, a Memory Stick Walkman 105, a Data Video Home System (DVHS) 106, an Amplifier 107, a Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB)-Tuner 108, another Camcorder 121, a Projector 110, a Navigation Unit 115, a MD-Changer 118, and CD-Changer 117, and a Home Appliances Control System 132. *Figure 6 and Specification, page 3, lines 9–11.*

Aspects of the present invention provide “a method for controlling various kinds of devices connected to a network via a Man Machine Interface (MMI), by which an easy control is

possible for the user.” *Specification, page 5, lines 32–34.* (emphasis added) “According to the invention it is possible to control all devices and/or services corresponding to the devices in the same way, irrespective of their type and their local connection to said home network.”

Specification, page 6, lines 12–14. Accordingly, embodiments of the present invention provide a method and interface for controlling non-computer home devices connected to a home network.

For example, the steps of method claim 13 include:

“*determining* a connection of one or more of said non-computer home devices to said home network;

determining availability of one or more multimedia services available via one or more of said non-computer home devices connected to said home network; and

displaying a hierarchical view representative of said one or more of said non-computer home devices connected to said home network and said one or more available multimedia services related thereto.” (emphasis added)

In summary, claim 13 describes a method for controlling network devices by determining a connection of one or more non-computer home devices to a home network, determining the availability of one or more multimedia services available via one or more of the non-computer home devices is connected to the home network, and displaying a hierarchical view of the non-computer home devices connected to the home network and available multimedia services related to the devices. Figure 1 of the present application, which is substantially reflected in claim 13, illustrates an example of an integrated hierarchical view that includes representations of both devices (e.g., a MD-Changer 23, a CD-Changer 24, a Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) Receiver 26, a Camcorder 31, a Camera 32, a Display 33, a Tape Recorder 34, an ISDN-Phone 38, and a Mobile Phone 39, and multimedia services (e.g., CD tracks 24a–24c and broadcast

channels 43a–43g).

Although the Windows Screenshots shows a hierarchical view of logical and physical devices connected to a computer, Windows Screenshots fails to show a determination of availability of one or more multimedia services available via one or more of the non-computer home devices connected to a home network.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is maintained that claim 13 should be allowable over Windows Screenshots. Furthermore, since independent claims 28 and 44 parallel, and include substantially similar limitations as recited in independent claim 13, claims 28 and 44 should also be allowable over Windows Screenshots. Since claims 14–15, 18–26, 29–30 and 33–41 depend from one of claims 13 and 28, claims 14–15, 18–26, 29–30 and 33–41 should also be allowable over Windows Screenshots.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 13–15, 18–26, 28–30, 33–41 and 44 based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 16–17 and 31–32

In Section 3 of the Office Action, claims 16–17 and 31–32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Windows Screenshots, as applied to claims 13 and 28 above, and Battat *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,985,012; hereinafter referred to as “Battat”).

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claims 13 and 28, and since claims 16–17 and 31–32 depend from claims 13 and 28, respectively, it is maintained that claims 16–17 and 31–32 should be allowable over Windows Screenshots.

Further, it was stated in Section 3 that Battat teaches “a user interface that provides a visualization and management of connected components of a computer network in a tree-like structure (Battat et al.: column 4, lines 47-59; column 16, lines 46-50 and Figure 10B)” and further teaches “integrating sub-networks and various components of the network via bridges (Battat et al.: column 18, lines 52-65)”.

Therefore, based on the foregoing discussion, it is maintained that Windows Screenshots and Battat, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 13 and 28, and by extension, claims 16–17 and 31–32.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 16–17 and 31–32 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 27 and 42

In Section 4 of the Office Action, claims 27 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Windows Screenshots, as applied to claims 13 and 28 above, and Saito *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,523,696; hereinafter referred to as “Saito”).

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claims 13 and 28, and since claims 27 and 42 depend from claims 13 and 28, respectively, it is maintained that claims 27 and 42 should be allowable over Windows Screenshots.

Further, it was stated in Section 4 that Saito teaches “an interface that displays information regarding interconnected devices and services in a network (Saito et al.: column 15, lines 18-30; column 22, lines 41-65 and Figures 5 and 13)” and further teaches “the use of AV/C

protocol for controlling components (Saito et al.: column 3, lines 58-67 and column 13, lines 49-56)".

Therefore, based on the foregoing discussion, it is maintained that Windows Screenshots and Saito, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 13 and 28, and by extension, claims 27 and 42.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 27 and 42 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 13–42 and 44 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.


In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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